

Sanctuary Advisory Council
Thirty-first Meeting
Thursday, March 13, 2003
8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Kihei Community Center
303 E. Lipoa Street
Kihei, HI 96753

Final Meeting Minutes

Attendance

SAC Members Present: Margaret Akamine, James Coon, Elizabeth Corbin, Walter Haas, Rebecca Hommon, Cindy Knapman, John Laufer, Teresa Leicher, William Lennan, Richard McCarty, Naomi McIntosh, Jerry Norris, Terry O'Halloran, Sara Peck, Richard Poirier, Michael Stanton, Glenn Soma, Jeffrey Walters, Reginald White, Bob Wilson.

SAC Alternates Present: Rick Hawkins (for John Reghi), Marc Lammers (for Paul Nachtigall), Allen Tom (for Robert Smith), Samantha Whitcraft (for Louis Herman).

Excused: Athline Clark, Nancy Daschbach, William Friedl, June Harrigan Lum, Louis Herman, Patty Miller, Paul Nachtigall, John Reghi, Robert Smith.

Others Present:

HIHWNMS: Christine Brammer, Claire Cappelle, Amy Glester, David Mattila, Joseph Fell-McDonald, Joylynn Oliveira, Liz Russell and Paul Wong

PUBLIC: Kari Adams, Hannah Bernard, Terri Boland, Mabel Haas, Tim Hurley, Fred Litt, Jane Litt, Dwayne Meadows, Joseph Pontanilla, Valerie Monson, Anne Rillero, Alison Roberts, Cheryl Sterling, Don Thornburg, Charlie Toguchi.

Distributed Materials

- Final Agenda
- Final Meeting Minutes (09/09/02 – 1/23/03)
- Meeting Action Items
- Acting Sanctuary Manager's Report
- Science and Rescue Update
- State Co-Manager's Report
- Conservation Committee Report
- Research Committee Report
- Hawaii County Report
- Kauai Report
- Maui County Report
- Naturalist Training Working Group Report
- Boater Outreach Weather Kiosk
- GMD ETR Draft EIS Information
- Cruise Ship Articles

Call to Order

SAC Chair, Jim Coon, called the meeting to order at 8:36 a.m. Secretary, Sara Peck began the meeting by taking roll. Mr. Coon welcomed SAC members and members of the public. He noted this is the first Maui meeting since the Advisory Council initially was created.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Bill Lennan made a motion to accept the minutes from 09/09/02 – 1/23/03. Dick Poirier seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Public Forum

Dennis Fitzpatrick submitted testimony on cruise ship waste~~r~~ water dumping. He stated, that specifically in areas of Molokini, he has seen fecal matter in the water. Close examinations of humpback whales that die in Hawai'i waters needs to be done. He pointed out there are no outlets for waste water at harbors. In a letter sent to Senator Akaka, Mr. Fitzpatrick stated that on various occasions while kayaking he witnessed the dumping of what was perceived as raw sewage by the whale watching boats into the area between Molokini and Makena. He enclosed a copy of a letter with his testimony printed in the Maui News from a forensic expert from the mainland who had also witnessed this on various occasions while whale watching and expressed his concerns about the death of a whale and the need to do autopsies. Mr. Fitzpatrick began exploring the harbors to discover that there were no pump out facilities for sewage. Our water quality is affected nationwide. The Department of Boating and Ocean Recreation, (DOBOR), Department of Health, (DOH) Clean Water Branch must be contacted. Littering and polluting water in any way is detrimental to public health. It is difficult to enforce the rules stated in the Clean Vessel Act – 5 year and the federal grant program. Mr. Fitzpatrick would like to see the environmental assessment, (EA) on discharging into our waters of waste from all boating activities. He feels a three mile limit should apply to all boats and whale watch boats do not currently do this.

Dr. Dwayne Meadows, Director of Research and Marine Science for Pacific Whale Foundation, (PWF) discussed the draft EA for the Maui site. He urged the SAC to consider the consequences of this project. The proposal calls for digging 45-feet down to provide the building foundation. In his opinion alternatives need to be considered for expansion of space include looking at existing space in the Maalaea area. Vacant land is available that would not need digging.

Another issue Dr. Meadows raised was an article in the Journal of Ecological Society of America about advisory councils to the federal government. It addresses the issue of members being dismissed from councils due to change in government administration. He feels the SAC has similar issues and new members may not represent the seats they hold, which in his opinion reflexes upon the credibility of the SAC.

Anne Rillero, PWF, commented on Cruise ship dumping in Hawaiian waters. Ms. Rillero would like the SAC to consider dumping stations for all vessels from Maalaea, Lahaina and Kihei. She feels the interim solutions bring environmental concerns. She stated that PWF was one of first companies using pump-out station in Lahaina and share the publics concern about waste disposal. Ms. Rillero urged the SAC to help bring pump out stations to all harbors and boat ramps in Hawai'i.

Discussion on Reports and Updates

Regional Coordinator Update:

Allen Tom, Pacific Regional Coordinator, announced that the position for Sanctuary Manager is now open and will be open for the next 45-days. The regional office will be hiring a part-time computer tech person to help support all the site offices. NOAA has recently produced a NWHI atlas. If you are interested, information is available. Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve (NWHICRER) is now going through the process of selecting new members

for their Reserve Advisory Council (RAC). Next week the annual meeting in D.C. of the Sanctuary managers will be held. Naomi McInosh will have the opportunity to meet with Congressional representatives from Hawai'i. Next year we will have a vessel, the Vindicator, to do projects for the National Ocean Service in Hawai'i. The vessel will be given a new Hawaiian name.

SAC Chair:

Jim Coon, SAC Chair, reviewed the items from the Action Items Status Report (see attachment #1). A letter has been drafted by the Research Committee in support of the SPLASH project. The SAC will further address the issue in unfinished business. A letter in appreciation of Carol Carey's work for the HIHWNMS was sent. Presentations on the potential water waste impact from cruise ships with respect to humpback whales were requested at the previous meeting and will take place on today's meeting agenda. The Sanctuary is also working to incorporate the SAC's recommendation that all future responses to an RFP be submitted to two outside peer reviews.

Mr. Coon also reported that he attended the National SAC Chairs and Coordinators meeting with Amy Glester, SAC Coordinator, in Santa Barbara. The meeting was very helpful to network with other SAC Chairs and Coordinators.

Acting Sanctuary Manager:

Ms. McIntosh acknowledged the Maui staff, volunteers, and SAC alternate Don Thornburg. A written report was submitted. (see attachment #2)

David Mattila, Science and Rescue Coordinator, discussed on-going research efforts, mock website, and database development. Mr. Mattila also submitted a written report. (see attachment #3)

Sanctuary Co-Manager:

Dr. Jeffrey Walters thanked the Sanctuary staff for their hard work on organizing today's meeting and acknowledged David Mattila for rescue efforts. Two positions with the state should be available soon for a Marine Conservation Specialist and an intern. The positions have been classified as critical and are awaiting approval by Governor Lingle. More information is available in the Co-Manager Report. (see attachment #4)

Conservation Committee:

Samantha Whitcraft, Conservation Alternate, discussed the handout submitted by Conservation Representative, Lou Herman. The committee would like the SAC to identify the conservation issues that they would like to see the committee address. A potential list of items is included in the handout. (see attachment #5)

Research Committee:

Dr. Marc Lammers, Research alternate, referred to his written report, which includes a draft letter to the Acting Sanctuary Manager endorsing the SPLASH project. (see attachment #6)

Education Report:

No written report was submitted and both the Education Representative and Alternate were excused from this meeting. Elizabeth Corbin discussed the change in the Kidscience program that is affecting Patty Miller and asked the SAC to support Ms. Miller's program efforts. This will be taken up under new business.

Kauai County:

Dr. Walter Haas, Kauai County Representative, referred to the large amount of activities that the Sanctuary has been participating in on Kauai. A written report was submitted. (see attachment #7)

Hawaii County:

Sara Peck, Hawaii County Representative, submitted a written report and mentioned the need for the telephone numbers for whale violation, disentanglements and strandings to be more widely distributed. Margaret Akamine was open to information on where the number could be advertised affordably since there is only a limited budget available for outreach at this point. (For more information see attachment #8.)

Maui County:

Richard McCarty submitted a written report. (see attachment #9)

Honolulu County:

The Honolulu County Representative, Bill Friedl, was excused from the meeting and no written report was submitted.

Vessel Strike Working Group:

Naomi McIntosh gave an update during her report. (see attachment #2)

Naturalist Training and Certification Working Group:

A written update (see attachment #10) was submitted. Working Group Chair, Teri Leicher, discussed the need for another meeting. Dick Poirier also expressed concern about the Working Group and the need for another meeting. Staff support for the working group is an issue that needs to be addressed.

Boater Outreach Working Group:

Dr. Jeffrey Walters discussed the online kiosks that are being considered. A handout was also distributed. At this point, Lahaina Harbor is the location being considered for a pilot effort. There are some limitations on the possible locations of a kiosk because it must have electricity, online access, and it must also be kept in an area that will not be vandalized. The kiosk would offer local weather information including forecasts/warnings, weather buoys, wind models, swell models, satellite images, and radar/ surf/ jet stream information. In addition to the kiosk, signs will be developed and placed at appropriate locations around Hawai'i.

Break

SAC Chair, Jim Coon, restarted the meeting by clarifying statements made earlier during the public forum. He pointed out that it is illegal for any (USCG inspected small passenger charter) vessel to discharge untreated waste into the ocean environment. All USCG inspected vessels that carry more than six passengers for hire, have to have an approved "Marine Sanitation Device" (MSD) that prevents the discharge of untreated or inadequately treated blackwater. Marine Sanitation Devices use physical, chemical, and/or biological processes to allow effluent from the process to be discharged with characteristics that are similar to effluents from conventional, shoreside wastewater treatment plants. To the best of his knowledge, it is the Hawai'i Charter fleet operating procedure to use pump out facilities wherever possible and

otherwise to pump at least 3 miles off shore. Typically this is a very small amount of treated black water (i.e. less than 10 gallons at a time) that is discharged.

Presentations

Cruise Ship Industry Water Waste

June Harrigan Lum – DOH Excused from meeting.

Jim Coon, SAC Chair, introduced Charlie Toguchi from the Pacific Northwest Cruise Association. Mr. Toguchi thanked the Sanctuary Advisory Council for inviting him to the meeting. He stated that he first became involved with the Sanctuary when he was the chief of staff for Governor Cayetano in 1997. Mr. Toguchi is the Hawai'i representative for the Northwest Cruise Association (NWCA). The association represents about 90 percent of the business in Hawai'i. They also represent cruise ships in Alaska and along the West coast.

Mr. Toguchi affirmed the purpose of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), which is to set forth in writing various environmental goals, policies and laws as they relate to the operation of cruise vessels in Hawaii and that the process leading up to the MOU was difficult. He explained how many agencies were involved and how the process involved an agreement by all the cruise lines that they would follow the MOU. The Department of Health and the State of Hawai'i Office of Planning were the main agencies involved. The MOU required Deputy Director Gary Gill's approval.

Mr. Toguchi reviewed the waste management practices. These standards apply to photo processing, dry cleaning and print shop waste fluids, photocopying and laser print cartridges, unused and outdated pharmaceuticals, florescent and mercury vapor lamp bulbs, batteries, bilge and oily water residue, glass, cardboard, aluminum and steel cans, incinerator ash, graywater and blackwater.

Mr. Toguchi referred to maps of the Hawaiian Islands and noted that the boundaries of the Hawai'i marine areas were created with the knowledge of the boundaries of the Sanctuary. The prohibited area (no-discharge area) includes the penguin banks area as well as all other areas of the Sanctuary. He further explained that the MOU prohibits discharge of untreated blackwater, treated blackwater, or graywater within the Hawai'i Marine Area. The Hawai'i Marine Area is those waters between the shoreline and 4 nautical miles beyond the 100 fathom contour line.

Mr. Toguchi clarified that there is one exception to the prohibition – if the effluent from an advanced wastewater treatment system on board a ship meets standards to continuous discharge as set under federal law (Title XIV – Certain Alaska Cruise Ship Operations (Appendix VII)); then the discharge of the effluent may then occur while the ship maintains a minimum speed of six knots and while the ship is more than one nautical mile from shore. Prior to the discharge of effluent from an advanced treatment system, the cruise ship company must first provide to the State of Hawai'i test results to verify that the system meets or exceeds the federal law standards. The waste management practices and procedures must meet or exceed all standards set forth in Hawai'i laws and applicable Hawai'i regulations. Mr. Toguchi stated that permission will not be given by the state because they can not meet the requirements.

Mr. Toguchi discussed solid waste, hazardous waste and air emissions. Incinerators can not be used in Hawai'i ports for the combustion of any waste materials and visible emissions will be limited. The MOU acknowledges that the U.S. Coast Guard has federal jurisdiction.

Mr. Toguchi believes that the Hawai'i cruise ship market is becoming more and more important as the conditions of the nation and world change. He stated that as the cruise ship industry expands, there must be standards to be followed. These standards should be across the board, and the MOU requires at least one annual meeting between the state and NWCA to review the effectiveness of the agreement.

Mr. Toguchi invited the Sanctuary Advisory Council to tour a cruise ship on O'ahu to see the environmental capabilities and practices used. He discussed the recycling and reduction of waste efforts.

Mr. Coon announced that Isaac Moriwake's presentation will be next and Mr. Toguchi will be available for questions following the next presentation. He further explained that Mr. Isaac Moriwake from Earthjustice will also be presenting for Jeff Mikulina of the Sierra Club as well, since he is attending a legislative session. Mr. Moriwake's presentation will cover the environmental concerns of this issue.

Mr. Moriwake referred to recent news articles of illegal dumping. More specifically, he mentioned the recent banning of a cruise ship from Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. He stated that the worldwide fleet >220, will grow by 50% by 2005 and there were 12,000,000 passengers in 2001. It is his belief that the Hawai'i cruise industry has grown considerably and will continue to do so.

Mr. Moriwake described environmental impacts include solid waste, water pollution, air pollution and marine mammal interactions. In regards to solid and toxic waste, cruise ships accumulate 11.5 tons of garbage per day of which 75-80% is incinerated. Water pollution is a large component of what cruise ships discharge including approximately 270,000 gallons of graywater per day, 30,000 gallons of blackwater, or sewage, every day, and thousands of pounds of sewage sludge. Graywater and blackwater are likely contaminated with viruses that can potentially infect swimmers. Other discharges include bilge water (~7,000 gallons per day), and ballast water. Ballast water discharge from one location to another is a large source of invasive species introduction. Air pollution is also a concern.

Marine mammal interactions were discussed. Collision, noise, habitat encroachment, direct impacts from polluted waste releases, and indirect impacts from pollution via the food chain are all issues in this area.

Mr. Moriwake reported history consists of 87 cases of illegal dumping by foreign flagged cruise ships into U.S. waters between 1993-1998. Charges were filed against 104 ships with tens of millions of dollars in fines for violations that have been given over the past few years. Violations are fleet wide.

According to Mr. Moriwake, every major cruise line has had pollution violations in this decade. Federal regulations in this area are limited to nonexistent. Cruise ships are exempted by regulation from the NPDES requirements of the Federal Clean Water Act. Other laws cover cruise ship wastes on a piecemeal basis and many wastes fall under no controls. The U.S. Coast Guard only spends a couple of hours each year conducting scheduled inspections to check ships for environmental compliance. In his opinion, state regulations also fall short.

Mr. Moriwake further explained that new technologies are not required and in fact only 5 ships in the foreign fleet in 2002 were certified by the U.S. Coast Guard to have advanced wastewater treatment systems. New ships continue to be built without improved treatment systems. In regards to Hawai'i's Memorandum of Understanding, Mr. Toguchi discussed that the MOU is self-policed. It consists of weaker standards than Alaska. The standards are not quantifiable. There are no standards for testing, enforcing, or monitoring.

Mr. Moriwake expressed his concerns that permits are needed for polluted discharges. These should include end of pipe effluent limits on all pollutants, monitoring and reporting on all wastestreams. All wastestreams must meet HWQS, establish and require best available technologies, best management practices, new source performance standards and berth tax to fund DOH monitoring, record keeping, inspection and analysis programs. Independent observer

program, strong penalties for non-compliance, and blanket prohibition on discharges in sensitive areas.

Mr. Moriwake conclude by stating there are many sources to review the information, many of which are available on the Internet.

Discussion questions:

Mr. Toguchi pointed out that Hawai'i's ships are fairly new. Peak season in Hawai'i is from September to March for cruise ship operations. Many of the ships that visit Hawai'i are the same ships that visit Alaska. The cruise ships have agreed to not discharge in the Hawai'i Marine Area as defined by the MOU. The MOU states that any discharge must meet Hawai'i standards.

Jim Coon asked what happens to "the sludge". Mr. Toguchi's response is that it is to be burnt and taken off the ship.

Jerry Norris asked whether or not the harbors can handle the amount of waste coming in? Mr. Toguchi's replied at this point, the technology is not there to be able to handle the waste effectively. It is important to note that other vessels also have waste to discharge.

A question was posed as to whether the cruise industry is open to third party certification in Hawai'i (e.g., could there be independent observers on each boat with checklist of standards)? Mr. Toguchi noted that the Industry plans to have a meeting to discuss this.

Is there are policing within the Northwest Cruise Association (NWCA)? What does the association do? Mr. Toguchi's responded by stating that members could be removed from the association. It is unknown if this has ever happened.

Sara Peck inquired as to whom collects fines from international cruise ships. Mr. Toguchi stated that international cruise ships must follow the standards of the area they are in.

Dr. Marc Lammers asked if there is any effort on the part of the cruise ships to make sure that the effluent discharges based on wind conditions, etc. Mr. Toguchi stated that those factors are considered in discharge.

What training of the onboard staff is in place to assure compliance? According to Mr. Toguchi, an environmental officer is part of the onboard staff. The industry is trying to comply by self-reporting.

Questions addressed to Isaac Moriwake:

Samantha Whitcraft asked what the cruise industry is doing in regards to vessel strikes? What actions can be taken? Mr. Toguchi discussed rerouting of ships from high whale population areas. Speed is also lowered. Mr. Moriwake suggested a comprehensive study on what the effects of increased cruise traffic could be on the humpback whale population and questioned if cruise ships should be allowed in the Sanctuary during whale season. It was noted that it is difficult for ships to know if they even strike a marine mammal. David Mattila stated that large ships may only be able to tell by logging speed and noting unexpected decreases in speed.

Allen Tom, Regional Coordinator, inquired as to what federal laws are being used to enforce problems? Mr. Moriwake stated that the Oil Pollution segment of the Clean Water Act is applicable. Also, does any country have an independent observer program or a successful monitoring system? The Sierra Club has introduced bills in the house and senate to that effect but there is nothing in place at this time.

Education on these topics is essential. Mr. Moriwake mentioned that a new EPA office will be opening to provide enforcement.

Terry O' Halloran stated that the MOU is showing a step in the right direction. He believes voluntary monitoring would be useful and the lack of Coast Guard budget doesn't help.

Mr. Toguchi explained that every year this document (MOU) will need to be updated the industry plans to and host public meetings to insure all new issues are being addressed.

Unfinished Business

Cruise Ship Waste Water practices in water surrounding the Hawaiian Islands.

The Conservation Committee will summarize the presentations that were given concerning the cruise ship industry and it's potential impacts in terms of Sanctuary waters. The committee will be working to outline action item recommendations for the SAC.

Draft letter in support of SPLASH.

Mr. Coon also read the letter that was submitted by the Research Committee in support of the SPLASH project (refer to attachment #6).

A motion was made by Bill Lennan to accept and submit the letter to the Acting Sanctuary Manager. Teri Leicher seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

New Business

Elizabeth Corbin made a motion that the SAC send a letter to the Department of Education in support of the Kidscience program. Discussion on the benefits of the program to the Sanctuary and to students continued. A unanimous vote approved the motion.

SAC Elections in May

Statements for elections will need to be submitted in advance and will be distributed by email. Bill Lennan asked whether a nominating committee may help resolve some issues. New officers will be elected at the next meeting in May and they will assume their new officer positions at the end of the May meeting.

SAC Meeting Dates

The next meeting will be held May 15, 2003. Other tentative dates for 2003 are September 9, and November 12-14 (meeting and retreat).

Teri Leicher voiced concerns about location of the proposed multi-purpose building as described in the draft EA. Claire Cappelle, Maui County Liaison, provided additional information on the location of the building in relationship to the shoreline. Maui County has proposed new shoreline setback rules, which may affect the siting of the new building. Additional issues have to be resolved concerning the revetment in front of the main office building. An update by Claire and KFP Project Manager Robb Greis will be provided at the next SAC meeting, which will allow for further discussion.

Allen Tom recommended that the topic be added as an agenda item for the next meeting.

Public Forum

Dwayne Meadows invited the SAC to a presentation at Maalaea Harbor being held tonight. He also inquired about the number of folks who are supposed to be on the working group for Boater Outreach who were not invited to the last meeting.

Anne Rillero discussed the Maui Outdoor publication that is published. She asked the SAC to inquire about the use of the Sanctuary logo on printed materials and mentioned that there have been inconsistencies in the authorization of the use of the logo. Her latest inquiries to the Sanctuary management indicate that the National Marine Sanctuary Program Headquarters Office is reviewing the use of the logo in regards to sponsorship. Windjammer and Trilogy are still using the logo. The logo use by other companies seems unfair. Logo use should not be dictated by personal prejudices by Sanctuary management. There should be a method that is used for how to apply for use of the logo. On another topic, Ms. Rillero stressed the importance of the SAC charter being reviewed so that SAC members are not using their membership on the SAC to their own benefit.

Don Thornburg, Ocean Recreation Alternate, stated that this is his first visit to South Maui. The development that has taken place on the land relative to water quality is sad in relation to storm water run-off. Based on personal observations, what Mr. Thornburg sees is detrimental to the ocean habitat and water quality.

David Mattila added that he neglected to mention in his earlier presentation that the State of Hawai'i has been very involved in rescue efforts.

Announcements

A whale watch will depart from Maalaea Harbor at 1:30 today.

Review of Decisions and Action Items from the Meeting

Issues that are brought up in the public forum that the SAC would like to see addressed, should notify the appropriate committee or the SAC Chair.

Teri Leicher would like to see the SAC address the logo issue as well as the pump-out facilities. Dick Poirier would also like to see the sponsorship and logo use issue on the agenda.

Naomi McIntosh offered to send an email to the SAC to explain guidelines for adding items to the agenda.

Dr. Jeffrey Walters also offered to look into the use of State of Hawai'i and Department of Land & Natural Resources logos.

Summary: approved SPLASH project letter, approved letter to be written to support Patty Miller, changed dates of future SAC meetings, determined we will have a retreat in November.

Adjournment

SAC Chair, Jim Coon, adjourned the meeting at 1:00 p.m. And reminded members that after the whale watch there is also an opportunity to tour the Maui Ocean Center and learn more about Pacific Whale Foundation's new learning center.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment #1

Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary SANCTUARY ADVISORY COUNCIL

MARCH 2003 SAC MEETING ACTION ITEMS Status Report

ACTION: The SAC will write a letter in support of the Sanctuary as lead participant in the SPLASH project.

STATUS: A letter has been drafted by the Research committee. The SAC will be addressing this topic in unfinished business.

ACTION: The SAC accepted the draft letter of appreciation for Carol Carey.

STATUS: Letter has been sent.

ACTION: The SAC requested presentations on the potential water waste impact from cruise ships with respect to humpback whales.

STATUS: On today's agenda.

ACTION: The SAC requested that all future responses to an RFP shall be submitted to at least two outside peer reviews.

STATUS: The Sanctuary will work to incorporate the SAC's recommendations in future research proposal reviews.

Attachment #2

March 13, 2003

Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale NMS Sanctuary Advisory Council Meeting

Acting Sanctuary Managers Report

National Marine Sanctuary Program (NMSP) Updates

- President Bush's proposed 2004 budget for the Commerce Department's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) totals \$3.3 billion, an increase of \$190 million, or approximately 6 percent, over the President's FY 2003 request. This budget supports NOAA's efforts to provide increasingly accurate prediction of severe weather; a deeper understanding of long-term climate and environmental trends; sustaining healthy marine habitats, robust

ecosystems and coastal environments; and infrastructure, maintenance, safety and human capital within the agency.

- 2003 Budget Appropriation. The FY03 budget was passed by Congress on Friday, February 14th. Overall, the National Ocean Service fared pretty well with the total NOS operating budget for FY03 is \$415.2 million versus \$415.8 million in FY 02. For construction funds, \$76.6 million was appropriated to NOS this year versus \$87.8 million last year. Congress, however did reduce funding to programs such as corals (\$2 million reduction) and sanctuaries (\$1 million reduction) anticipating we would use carryover funds to make up the difference.
- The NMSP's Leadership Team meeting was held in Hawai'i from February 3rd through February 8th. The Leadership Team met on the islands of Oahu and Big Island in both Kona and Hilo. In Hilo, the Leadership Team was given the opportunity to tour the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve's new visitor center "Mokupapa".
- David Mattila attended the NMSP's Annual Research Coordinators meeting January 28th through 31st at NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service Southwest Fisheries Science Center in Santa Cruz, CA.
- The NMSP's annual Sanctuary Advisory Council Chair's and Coordinator's meeting was held February 18th through 21st in Santa Barbara, CA. SAC Chair Jim Coon and SAC coordinator Amy Glester attended. SAC Chair Jim Coon provided a presentation on the issue of whale/vessel interactions in Hawaii.
- Naomi McIntosh will be attending the 2003 Annual Ocean and Coastal Program Managers meeting at the Renaissance Washington DC hotel, March 17th through 20th. While in DC, Naomi will also be providing a five to ten minute presentation to the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation Board members.
- Paul Wong will be attending meetings of the NMSP Education Working Group in Washington DC during the week of March 17th.
- Jerry Stowell will be attending a "Limpet Workshop" in San Francisco, March 11 to 18th. The workshop was funded by a NMSP Education Minigrant. NMSP Education Minigrants are meant to create better collaborative education opportunities between different Sanctuary sites.

HIHWNMS Updates for September through November 2002

1. SAC Activities

- **SAC Selection**

The HIHWNMS has submitted its recommendations to Dan Basta, NMSP Director for the native Hawaiian and Fishing SAC seats for review and approval. The Sanctuary anticipates having new representatives on board by the next SAC meeting in May 2003.

The SAC Boater Outreach Working Group held a videoconference on February 12th. The agenda included a discussion about the use and placement of online kiosks. The Sanctuary is looking at the possibility of placing an online kiosk in Lahaina, Maui.

SAC Research Alternate Marc Lammers gave a public defense of his Ph.D. dissertation on Monday, February 10th. The title of his presentation is: "The broadband acoustic signaling behavior of Hawaiian spinner dolphins (*Stenella logirostris*)".

2. Facilities

Maui Sanctuary Office – The Sanctuary will be conducting an open house on March 20th to provide the public with an informational opportunity to discuss preliminary plans for the “new” multi-purpose building.

The Sanctuary anticipates that it will begin efforts to address the extensive termite damage that was found on the staircase leading to the 2nd story of the main building at the Maui site.

O’ahu Sanctuary Office – The O’ahu Sanctuary office will be relocating its O’ahu office with the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve later than anticipated. The relocation will probably occur towards the end of the year. The two offices will be sharing the 3rd floor of the Hawai’i Kai Corporate Plaza at 6600 Kalaniana’ole Hwy.

Kona Office – The HIHWNMS has not yet scheduled discussions with NELHA and the Kona Community to discuss a Sanctuary Kona Office. The Sanctuary will work to address this effort before the next meeting.

Honolulu Consolidation - NOAA is continuing to investigate the possibility of locating all its NOAA Honolulu offices within one consolidated complex.

3. Staff Positions

Jooke Robbins, Center for Coastal Studies will be working with David Mattila on contract throughout the month of March to support the science and rescue efforts of the Sanctuary.

The Sanctuary’s Oahu office will be filling a contract position to support the administrative functions of the program.

4. Sanctuary Partnerships

- On Thursday, February 13th, Naomi McIntosh was a guest on the Department of Education’s Teleschool, Kidscience program with Patty Miller. She was also a guest on February 27th.

5. Sanctuary Science and Rescue Activities

- On January 8th, David Mattila and Ed Lyman responded to a call that reported a red and white buoy attached to a whale. The reported area was near Black Rock, on Maui. David and Ed took out the NOAA Boat investigate the report. They saw two humpbacks, both clear of obstructions. David checked to ensure that all area buoys were accounted for and headed back to the Maui Sanctuary office.
- On January 8th, a call regarding an entangled whale at South Point on the Big Island was confirmed and David and Ed were standing by, prepared to respond to this report. The whale was not sighted on the second day and therefore David and Ed remained on Maui.

- February 2003, the whale rescue inflatable arrived and was equipped with an outboard motor. The Sanctuary is now prepared to respond to entanglement incidents that are reported.
- February 2003, David and Ed began field studies to conduct scar analysis of tail stocks using the Sanctuary's new pole cam to view underwater full body images for analysis.
- On Monday February 3rd, the Kaua'i office hosted a Disentanglement Training given by David and Ed. Sanctuary staff, Sanctuary Advisory Council members from Kauai and State Department of Aquatic Resources employees were in attendance.
- David Mattila, Ed Lyman and Jeff Walters attended the 2002/2003 Hawaii Humpback Whale Researcher Coordinator Meeting, February 4th and 5th.
- On Monday, February 10th, David and Ed responded to a report of a grounded humpback whale. It turned out to be a female humpback logging at the surface.
- On Tuesday, February 11th, David and Ed held a Disentanglement Training for Sanctuary Staff and Maui Division of Aquatic Research representatives. This training was to educate the attendees to be qualified as first responders in case of an entanglement.
- On Wednesday, February 12th, David Mattila, Science and Rescue Coordinator, and Ed Lyman, Science and Research Specialist, responded to a report of an entangled monk seal. The seal could not be found.

6. Education and Outreach

- Fifteen college level economic majors attended a workshop on "The Economics of Whaling and the Whale Watching Industry" presented by Jerry Stowell, Education Center Coordinator, on January 24th. Also, twenty-five Sierra Club members arrived for an unscheduled visit to the education center and sat in on the Economics Presentation.
- **Eight 7th grade students from Kauai's Chiefess Kamakahelei Middle School completed their service learning project with the Kauai Sanctuary office. The students provided a combined total of 52 volunteer hours over a three-day period. The youth volunteers worked on preparations for the Sanctuary Ocean Count, certificates for Ocean User Workshop participants, mailouts, and other office tasks. A couple of volunteers and their parents have continued to help the sanctuary beyond the class assignment.**
- The Maui site hosted a Community Work Day beach clean up event on Saturday, January 26th. Over ten volunteers attended and participated in this event. The beach clean up is one of the annual events of the Community Work Day Program.
- The first and second events of the annual Sanctuary Ocean Count was held on Saturday, January 25 and Saturday February 22, from 63 different shore sites around the islands of O'ahu, Kaua'i, the Big Island and Kaho'olawe. One more additional count will be held on March 29.
- **February and March 2003, KBIG radio on the Big Island is sponsoring Sanctuary/humpback whale radio spots. Nanette Napoleon on contract**

with the Sanctuary as a communications specialist is working with Rhonda VanWingerden to create and develop approximately 30 different radio spots.

- **The Maui Sanctuary staff continued to work with Windjammer Cruises to conduct whale watches with local students throughout February. Whale watch trips are also scheduled for March 4, 11, 25, and April 1.**
- On Thursday February 6th and Friday February 7th, 180 first grade students from Wailuku Elementary School participated in a two-day workshop in the education center. They learned about whales, bubble net feeding, limu and animal movement, and sea turtles. This is the second year that Wailuku Elementary School has participated in this program.
- On Friday, February 7th, Christine Brammer, O'ahu Program Coordinator, and Kristina Elson, Project Assistant, took part in a whale watch with Waimalu Schools fourth graders on board the Star of Honolulu. A week prior to the whale watch, Chris and Kristina went to Waimalu schools to teach the fourth graders about humpback whales and the Sanctuary program.
- On Saturday, February 15th, Sanctuary staff and volunteers attended Pacific Whale Foundation's Whale Day festival and hosted a booth and distributed Sanctuary education materials.
- On Friday, February 21st, Christine Brammer, O'ahu Program Coordinator, Kristina Elson, Project Assistant, and Jeff Walters, Sanctuary Co-manager visited the University of Hawaii Lab School and hosted a presentation on humpback whales and the Sanctuary for second through fifth grade students.
- **Lectures and Training Workshops**
- On Tuesday, February 18th, Adam Pack was the guest speaker for the Maui lecture entitled "Choosiness in Humpback Whales: Habitats and Escorting Strategies". Dr. Pack presented the latest findings in female habitat preferences along with male escort preferences regarding female humpback whales and mate selection.
- David Mattila is presenting a lecture on Oahu to the Hawaiian Heritage Program on March 4th.
- Jim Darling is presenting as a guest lecturer on Tuesday March 4. The topic of his presentation is "Whale Songs".
- Hans Konrad Van Tilburg is presenting a lecture on "Wrecks in the Northwest: Our Maritime Legacy in the Hawaiian Archipelago" on Tuesday, March 11.

7. Staff and Volunteer Accomplishments

- Paul Wong attended a workshop on visitor use in coastal areas. The 2-day workshop entitled "Managing Visitor Use in Coastal and Marine Protected Areas" was held at the Hanauma Bay Education Center.
- Sanctuary staff collected two dead turtles as part of the South Maui's Turtle Stranding network. The turtles were sent to NOAA Fisheries on Oahu for analysis on Tuesday, January 21st.

- January 27th and 28th, the Maui Education Center was packed full of Sanctuary staff (Maui, Oahu, Kaua'i) and volunteers hearing the latest facts, figures, and intrigues of the North Pacific humpback whale. Over 35 Sanctuary volunteers participated in this two-day training that was presented by Steven Zeff, Communications Director and Research Associate with the Center for Whale Studies. This is the second year that Steven has offered the training to Sanctuary staff and volunteers. The second day of training involved an on the water component of actual whale behavior interpretation while aboard the Maka Kai. This whale watch was available to volunteers who completed the two-day workshop.
- January 28th, Claire Cappelle, Maui County Liaison hosted a 45 Ton Talk on the lanai of the Sanctuary Building since the Education Center was being utilized for the volunteer training
- On January 31st, Ed Lyman served as the Captain aboard the Sanctuary boat, assisting the Division of Aquatic Resources with their underwater Reef Survey for Ahihi Reserve.
- On Monday, February 10th, Sanctuary staff and Dan Basta, Director of the National Marine Sanctuary Program, took the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve's ManaCat out for a test drive.
- On Tuesday, February 11th, a meeting was held for Maui Sanctuary staff and representatives of State agencies to demonstrate the capabilities of online weather kiosks.
- On Tuesday, February 18th, Joylynn Oliveira and Claire Cappelle participated in research training aboard the Sanctuary vessel to collect scientific data on whales and learn how to use tools during entanglement situations.
- On Wednesday, February 12th, Joylynn Oliveira, Hawaiian Cultural Educator, held this month's Hawaiian Cultural Workshop "at the movies". Volunteers and staff gathered round for a viewing of the movie "Hawai'i". This classic movie depicts life in Hawai'i in the 1820's as the first missionaries arrived in the bustling whaling town of Lahaina. A brief discussion was held to share thoughts, views, and reactions of the portrayal of missionaries and native Hawaiians.
- On Wednesday, February 12th, Joylynn Oliveira, Hawaiian Cultural Educator led a training for the South Maui Turtle Stranding Network. Staff and volunteers were in attendance to learn rescue procedures and proper use of needed equipment.
- On Saturday, February 22nd, Cindy Hylkema and Rhonda Van Wingerden participated in the Sanctuary Ocean Count on the island of Kaho'olawe. The count was organized by the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission staff,
- Joylynn Oliveria will be attending cultural training on Oahu, March 1 through 8. Joylynn will be participating in the "Oral History Workshop".

8. Media Coverage

- The Windward O'ahu edition of the Midweek newspaper featured the Sanctuary Ocean Count project in the calendar section.

- Fox News local affiliate KHON Channel 2 news featured a small television segment on the evening news related to the presentation at the Sanctuary Advisory Council meeting. The segment featured an interview with David Mattila, Science and Rescue Coordinator for the Sanctuary.
- The Honolulu Advertiser featured an article entitled “Humpback Comeback “ on January 23rd.
- January 26, 2003, Honolulu Advertiser article entitled “1300 sightings reported by whale watchers
- January 26, 2003, Star Bulletin featured an article reporting the results of the Sanctuary Ocean Count.
- January 25, 2003 media coverage on two local (KGMB 9 (CBS) and KITV 4 (ABC) TV news stations featured information on the Sanctuary Ocean Count.
- The Garden Island Newspaper (Kauai): Featured a front page article entitled “More and more whales spotted in Kauai waters”, Sunday edition, January 26, 2003. Includes an expanded article on the Kauai whale watching industry, with an interview of Kauai Sanctuary Liaison Jean Souza. Editorial “Whale Counts” in the January 26 edition was supportive of the ocean count and its enthusiastically positive results.
- KONG Radio (Kauai): On-air interview with Jean Souza by top radio personality Ron Wiley during the morning drive period on January 27.
- January 26, 2003, the Honolulu Advertiser featured several articles in its travel section on humpback whales. Including “Where the Whales are”, “See them Splash, see the Jungle too”, “Migration schedule is not well understood”, and “a whale-watching job as easy as 1-2-3.
- January 26th, the Maui News featured an article describing the activities and goals of the Ocean Count that took place on Saturday January 25, 2003.
- “More and more whales spotted in Kaua’i waters” was the name of an article featured on the front page of the Garden Island newspaper on January 28, 2003. The article highlighted the successful whale watching tour industry on Kaua’i and also featured information on the Sanctuary Ocean Count.
- The Happy Camper section of the Garden Island Newspaper featured an article on January 31, 2003 entitled “Manning the lookouts, counting the whales”. A picture of students participating in the Sanctuary Ocean Count was also featured.
- The February 2003 Oahu Island News, a free-monthly island-wide newspaper featured information on the Sanctuary Ocean Count in the calendar section.
- The January 30 – February 5th edition of the Island Weekly featured an article entitled “Whale counters needed, as the season revs up”. The article highlighted the Sanctuary Ocean Count project and as well as the increasing whale population. The same article was also featured in the February 2003 Kauai Island Monthly.
- The Maui Visitor information booklet highlighted the lecture by Steve Zeff that was held on Tuesday February 11, 2003.

- Sunday, February 9, The Maui News listed the 45 Ton Talk as well as the Steve Zeff lecture that were both held on Tuesday, February 11.
- Sunday, February 16- The Maui News highlighted the lecture given by Adam Pack on Tuesday, February 18, 2003. The article was entitled, "Humpback Hookups Topic of Free Lecture".
- CalendarMaui.com featured the free lecture given by Steve Zeff on February 11, 2003 entitled, "Inside the Antarctic Convergence: Whales, Whaling, Seabirds and Exploration."
- Wednesday, February 19 – The Midweek Islander featured information on the Sanctuary Ocean Count in the calendar section of the windward edition.
- Friday, February 21 The Maui News listed the winners of the 4th Annual Whale Discovery 2003 project that the Maui site is partnering on with Windjammer Cruises, Maui.
- Friday, February 21 – Naomi McIntosh, Acting Sanctuary Manager, took part in a press conference with Science and Technology International.
- Friday, February 21 – Naomi McIntosh was featured on TV channel 4 in relation to the earlier press conference with STI and the Sanctuary Ocean Count.
- Friday, February 21 – The Honolulu Star Bulletin featured an article entitled "Aerial camera aids volunteers in whale count".
- Friday, February 21 – The Happy Camper section of the Garden Island newspaper featured a section on the Sanctuary Ocean Count. The State/Local section of the newspaper also featured a section entitled "Sanctuary Ocean Count takes place Saturday".
- Sunday, February 23 – The Honolulu Advertiser featured an article on the Sanctuary Ocean Count entitled "Volunteers tally visiting whales".

9. Other

- Department of Defense will conducting public hearings to facilitate public review and comment on the Ground-based Midcourse Defense (GMD) Extended Test Range in Honolulu on March 6th at the Disabled American Veterans Hall, Keehi Lagoon Park. The proposed action would include pre-launch activities, target and ground based interceptor missile launches from a number of widely separated locations including the Pacific Missile Range Facility on Kauai.
- 8th Annual Down Under, Out Yonder, Workshop for K-12 Educators with the Flower Garden Banks NMS. Applications are being accepted through March 26, 2003. If you know anyone who may be interested flyers are available on the information table.
- A final report on the Workshop on the Management of Hawaiian Monk Seals on Beaches in the Main Hawaiian Islands, held on 29 – 31 October 2002 on Kauai is now available. If you would like to receive a copy there is a sign up sheet on the back table for your request.

Attachment #3

RESEARCH ORGANIZATIONS

Hawaiian Island Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary

Principal Investigator: David Mattila

Co-Investigator: Jooke Robbins, Ed Lyman

Contact Information: HIHWNMS, (808) 879-2818

Permits:

State Permit: SH2003-05

Federal Research Permit: 782-1438

Federal Disentanglement Permit: 932-1489-01

Research Locations: West Maui from La Peruse to Black Rock out to 15 nm.

Research Vessels:

Make: Seacat

Length: 22 feet

Type: Catamaran

Color: White hull and cabin

Logo or unique markings:

NOAA logo on side of hull

Research and Goals:

In collaboration with NOAA Fisheries, determine extent of health and human impact on Hawaiian Humpback population. Health of population assessed from assay of skin and blubber samples. Genetic material will contribute to overall genetic data set on Pacific Humpbacks and is analyzed at University of California at Berkley. Human impact assessed from the photo-documentation of entanglement scars. Photo documentation also includes photo-id. All photos will be archived at the National Marine Mammal Laboratory (and distributed to local researchers)

Establish a regional disentanglement network for the Hawaiian Islands. Perform outreach, respond to, document reports of entangled whales, and if the entanglement is life threatening, attempt to free the entangled animal.

Recent/ Sample Papers:

1999. Bowman, B., Lyman E., Mattila D., Mayo C.A. **Developing a network of marine professionals for the rescue of entangled whales.** Abstract in the proceedings of the 13th Biennial Conference on the Biology of Marine Mammals. Maui, Hawaii. November 27 - December 3.

2001. Nielsen, R.; Mattila, D.K; Clapham P. J.; and Palsbøll P.J. **Statistical Approaches to Paternity Analysis in Natural Populations and Applications to the North Atlantic Humpback Whale.** Genetics 157: 1673–1682

1999. Robbins, J. and D. K. Mattila. **A directed, photographic technique for estimating large whale entanglement rates.** Abstract in the proceedings of the 13th Biennial Conference on the Biology of Marine Mammals. Maui, Hawaii. November 27 - December 3.

1999. Robbins, J. and D. Mattila. **Monitoring entanglement scars on the caudal peduncle of Gulf of Maine humpback whales.** Report to the National

Attachment #4

February 27, 2003

MEMORANDUM

To: Sanctuary Advisory Council, Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary

From: Jeff Walters, Sanctuary Co-Manager

Subject: Update from the Sanctuary Co-Manager for the period of January 11 February 26, 2003 (Prepared for the March 13, 2003 Council meeting)

New DLNR Chairperson – Peter T. Young

Peter Young came on board as DLNR's new leader on January 14. He met with Dan Basta (NMSP Director) and various DLNR and NOAA staff on February 6 in an introductory briefing regarding the sanctuary and the NWHI CRE Reserve. Mr. Young and Mr. Basta shared many similar interests and strategies regarding the appropriate protection and management of Hawaii's marine resources. The state sanctuary office looks forward to continuing its service as a supportive and responsive management partner under Peter's leadership and support.

New Position in State Office - Marine Conservation Specialist

The process of filling the new, federally-funded, full-time position (marine conservation specialist) has been on hold while a hiring freeze has been put in place by the new administration. The position, as well as a UH Intern position, is now listed as a "critical position" to be considered by the Governor for approval to fill.

Sanctuary Research Project – Kona Coast, Big Island

Principal investigators Christine Gabriele and Adam Frankel report some weather-related delays, but relatively good progress was reported in the early stages of the project, i.e., Shore-based Acoustic and Visual Monitoring of Humpback Whales (*Megaptera novaeangliae*) along the Kohala Coast of the Island of Hawai'i.

Boater Outreach Project

The Boater Outreach Working Group held a videoconference on February 12, during which the group was provided with a presentation on educational, internet kiosks offered by OnlineKiosks, a private firm based in California. The firm recently installed a kiosk at the newly opened education center of the NWHI CRE Reserve in Hilo. The kiosks demonstrated to the working group were "sunlight readable," "touchscreen" kiosks that allow for viewing a wide variety of menu-driven web pages displaying current weather info, fishing and boating rules, etc. The kiosks have been quite successful in the Channel Islands NMS, where fishermen and other ocean users frequently check the latest weather data from the fuel docks and stores where the kiosks have been installed. The working group discussed the possible applicability of the kiosks as an education and outreach tool. Group members in attendance felt the kiosk would probably be useful at a busy, heavily trafficked harbor facility, such as Lahaina, but noted that it had limited useful applicability in most other areas typically accessed by boaters, e.g., boat ramps, beaches, etc. The co-manager will prepare a prospectus describing use of the kiosks at Lahaina harbor for further consideration by the group.

Education and Outreach

Based on the vote conducted during the last Council meeting, three images have been selected for the sanctuary poster series. The images are, 1. mother and calf underwater, 2. breach, and 3. fluke-down dive. Captions, credits, etc. are being developed in coordination with NOAA Fisheries and sanctuary staff. As mentioned previously, the layout follows the NOS standard for "site posters." Progress also continues on the poster of Native Hawaiian uses in the sanctuary. An artist has been working with sanctuary staff to depict a traditional Hawaiian seascape in sanctuary waters. A writer contracted by NOAA has been hired to prepare stories for the next issue of the newsletter due out in April.

National Marine Sanctuary Program Holds National Leadership Team Meeting in Hawaii

The co-manager attended several sessions of the NMSP's leadership team meeting held on Oahu and the Big Island from February 3 – 8. The meeting covered a variety of subjects including vessel policies and performance measures. The leadership team consists of all the sanctuary managers and other leadership positions within the program. This was a good opportunity for the sanctuary and the NWHI CRE Reserve to highlight the benefit of our federal-state partnership and to show off all that Hawaii has to offer in terms of marine resource management and conservation. The "LT" enjoyed several social events and field trips, including a snorkel at Hanauma Bay.

Cetacean Strandings

Entangled Humpback, Olowalu, Maui, February 24 – DAR Aquatic biologist Skippy Hau assisted the sanctuary's David Mattila and Ed Lyman in safely disentangling about 100 ft of rope from the 35 ft whale after "a spirited tugging match" involving several buoys, an inflatable, and a sea anchor, among other things. UH Kewalo Basin Marine Mammal lab personnel Mark Deakos and crew were also of great assistance in locating and tracking the animal, as was private boater Wally Bennett, who first spotted the entangled animal. A DLNR press release helped generate fairly extensive print and broadcast media coverage of the incident highlighting the sanctuary's leadership role.

Kauai Monk Seal Conservation

Shawn Farry has submitted a draft final report of his findings and recommendations after 3 months of managing monk seal haul outs on Kauai. He responded to over 250 haul outs and identified 23 individual seals around the island. While the funding for the coordinator's job has lapsed for now, Dr. Charles Karnella of the NOAA Fisheries Pacific Island Area Office has indicated that he expects to be able to renew funding as soon as he has been provided an approved FY 03 budget.

Meetings, Etc.

- 1) January 22 – Attended meeting of the NWHI CRE Reserve Advisory Council.
- 2) January 30 – Held meeting with DOBOR and DAR staff re boater outreach project including internet kiosks.
- 3) February 3-6 – Attended various sessions of the NMSP Leadership Team Meeting.
- 4) February 3 – Held meeting with Joylynn Oliveira and Brook Parker re traditional Hawaiian uses poster.
- 5) February 4 – Attended meeting with NOAA Fisheries and sanctuary staff re research permits, etc.
- 6) February 5 – Attended introductory meeting with DLNR Chair Peter Young and NMS Director Dan Basta.
- 7) February 6 – Joined NOAA Fisheries and sanctuary staff in meeting/briefing with humpback whale research permit holders and staffs.
- 8) February 11 – Attended day-long whale disentanglement training with Maui DAR staff conducted by sanctuary staff David Mattila and Ed Lyman.
- 9) February 21 – Attended educational presentation to 2nd - 4th grade classes at UH Lab School by sanctuary staff Chris Brammer and Kristina Elsen.

10) February 25 – Held meeting with Shawn Farry, Kauai Monk Seal Coordinator.

cc: Peter T. Young, DLNR Chairperson
William S. Devick, DLNR-DAR Administrator
Naomi McIntosh, Acting Sanctuary Manager

Attachment #5

Conservation Committee Report

March 13, 2003

There was no direct conservation business transacted since the last SAC meeting. In regards to the potential issues affecting the whales, SAC members are asked to indicate any other conservation issues that they would like to see the committee address (the more specific the better), as well as indicate whether these listed should be amended. They can provide items to Samantha Whitcraft at the meeting or to Lou Herman by Email.

Potential items affecting whales for Conservation consideration include:

1. Extension of the Hawaii shallow water range in Maui
2. Open ocean farming off Keahole Point (and elsewhere?)
3. Pending high speed ferry service
4. Navy sonar operations and other disruptive anthropogenic noise
5. Oil spills and mitigation measures
6. Pollution from cruise ship waste water discharge
7. Continued monitoring of NPAL ((North Pacific Acoustic Laboratory)
8. Other point source pollution sources

Attachment # 6

Report of the Research Committee of the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary.

The research committee drafted and supports the attached letter to be considered by the SAC at the upcoming meeting.
The committee showed strong overall support for this endorsement of David Mattila's proposal.

Paul E. Nachtigall,
Chair, Research Committee

COPY

Ms. Naomi McIntosh
Interim Sanctuary Manager
Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary
6700 Kalaniana'ole Highway Suite 104
Honolulu, Hawaii 06825

Dear Ms. McIntosh

The Sanctuary Advisory Council of the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary is pleased to give its overwhelming endorsement to the proposed collaborative international research humpback whale project called SPLASH (Structure of Populations, Levels of Abundance and Status of Humpbacks) written and proposed by David Mattila. This project has the potential to answer many of the questions that have been identified by the Sanctuary Advisory Council Research Committee as research priorities for the Hawaiian Sanctuary's newly adopted management plan. In fact it may represent the only opportunity to answer some of the long-standing questions about stock structure and the relative importance of the Hawaiian breeding grounds to the entire North Pacific humpback whale population. Its findings will describe the population parameters of the whole population of the North Pacific humpback whales, not only those animals that winter in Hawaiian waters.

We are also excited that this project offers an opportunity for the Hawaiian Sanctuary, and the Sanctuary Program overall, to play a leadership role in a partnership with many other national and international agencies and institutions. We would like to commend you and your staff for the planning and effort and state that we fully support this proposal.

Attachment # 7

KAUA'I REPORT TO THE SAC
Prepared by Dr. Walter Haas
13 March 2003

These last two months have proven to be the most program-intense period on Kaua'i in the last six years. In addition to implementation of the annual Sanctuary Ocean Count, we undertook several new initiatives and reformulated some "old" ones. With the increased number of SAC members residing on Kaua'i, SAC member involvement in the Kaua'i programs have also increased. Volunteer participation and support by the program and use of the Kaua'i Sanctuary Office facilities have been at an all-time high as well.

SAC

Don Thornburg and I participated in the February video-conference of the Boater Outreach working group. We also attended the sanctuary-sponsored Two-Day Humpback Whale and Marine Mammal Training conducted by researcher and naturalist Steve Zeff. In February, Don and I participated in the First Responder Training for Whale Disentanglement held in the Kaua'i Office. Don has offered to be a member of the first responder team. Don also assisted in a special student event in March which focused on whale disentanglement techniques. For each of the Ocean Counts, Carl Berg served as a Site Leader at Crater Hill, which overlooks the Sanctuary. Don and I have dropped by various sites during the Counts to observe. Each of these events is described in more detail below.



EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

Educator Workshops. Two workshops were conducted by Jean in February at the request of teachers interested in the Ocean Count as a school project. Five teachers from two schools requested the workshop. Teacher interest was generated by media coverage and the Sanctuary's participation in last fall's Teacher Institute.

Sanctuary Ocean Count. The January Count reinforced the observations we had been receiving from the public that there seemed to be more whales in January than in previous years. Tour boat operators tell us that the humpback whale population around Kauai normally peaks between the end of February and mid-March. The January Count exceeded the February Count by about twenty percent. This year's January Count also exceeded last year's February Count by twenty percent. Over 100 volunteers participated in each of the counts. The Count continually attracts new participants to the program. Therefore, OC volunteer training sessions were conducted in the Kaua'i office by Jean or a selected OC volunteer in the weeks prior to each count. Kauai media coverage and free radio advertising have been outstanding.

School-Based Ocean Counts. While students have been involved in the Ocean Count in the past, this is the first year that a high school has analyzed the OC data as a class project. This is also the first year that schools have adopted and adapted the Ocean Count as a school activity, using their ocean-view campuses as OC sites.

Kapa'a Middle School's 6th grade special education class is undertaking a month-long OC project from their campus overlooking the island's eastern coastline. About twenty students are involved in this project headed by Special Education teacher Lu Salter. Jean met with the students on February 13 to reinforce the lessons taught by Ms. Salter about humpback whale behavior and the OC methods. From mid-February to mid-March, a sanctuary volunteer regularly stops by the class to monitor and assist the students, if needed. The Sanctuary also loaned the students binoculars, whale models, videotapes and reference materials.

The entire sixth grade level at Ele'ele Elementary School, consisting of four classes and over 100 students, conducted an Ocean Count from their campus overlooking Hanapepe Bay and Puolu Point on the island's westside on March 6. While a storm front made for difficult viewing, the students' enthusiasm, persistence, and depth of knowledge were outstanding. The OC is part of a larger curriculum being undertaken by the classes, which included oceans, whales, threats, reef monitoring, ecosystem monitoring and conservation. Jean presented a powerpoint-illustrated talk about the NMS program, humpback whales and research, and OC methodology to the entire 6th grade level on March 3. The students have completed a number of classroom activities related to these topics. The students will be making iMovies of their whale projects. In May, the sixth grade students will help the Sanctuary staff a number of whale activity booths on campus during the annual Spring Festival; teaching younger students what they have learned about humpback whales and the ocean.



Special Education Class Visits. In addition to the work with the Kapa'a Middle School class, Jean also met with the kindergarten Special Education teacher at Ele'ele Elementary School on February 6. Educational materials were loaned and a 45-minute school visit was made to reinforce learning about humpback whales. Among other things, the students had their humpback whale art made into "ocean magnets" by Jean. Support of special education and special needs students is a priority of the Kaua'i sanctuary program.

Sanctuary Lectures and Demonstrations. In response to teachers' interests in marine debris and their impacts, lectures and hands-on demonstrations on marine debris and whale disentanglement were conducted on March 4 in Kapa'a. NOAA Fisheries staff David Nichols (Pacific Islands Area Office, Protected Species Program) and Molly Timmers (Marine Debris Program) teamed up with Sanctuary staff and the Kauai Children's Discovery Museum to present a special 4-hour program at the Kaua'i Children's Discovery Museum for over 100 students. The Museum conducted a behind-the-scenes tour of the deep sea creature robotic display and a planetarium program. David Nichols, assisted by Don Thornburg and a sanctuary volunteer explained how whales are disentangled and the tools used. While they provided opportunities for students to try various whale disentanglement techniques using the actual disentanglement equipment now stored on Kaua'i, Jean gave an illustrated talk on whale disentanglement using images and information provided by David Mattila and Ed Lyman. Molly Timmers provided a powerpoint presentation on marine debris in the main and Northwestern Hawaiian Islands. She involved the students in conducting an analysis of netting using actual forms and field techniques. She was assisted by three sanctuary volunteers. Jean coordinated these Sanctuary-sponsored events.

Waimea Town Celebration. Staffs from the sanctuary and NWHICRE Reserve had a NMS Pacific Region exhibit booth at the annual Waimea Town Celebration on February 21 and 22. NW's new 40-foot boat was also featured at this event which attracts some 13,000 people in two days. Visits to the booth were frequent, but below expectations. Nonetheless, there was much genuine interest in the program and the resources in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands.



Kauai Family Ocean Fair. The staff and volunteers are working madly to prepare for this annual event scheduled for March 15 at Kilauea Lighthouse. Jean is the fair coordinator. Co-sponsors are Kilauea Point National Wildlife Refuge, Kilauea Point Natural History Association and the State of Hawaii. Among the new things this year, NOAA Fisheries will be a major exhibitor with displays and hands-on demonstrations on marine debris and marine mammal disentanglement.

Lecture Series Broadcast and Tapes. The 2002 Sanctuary Lecture Series and the Jean-Michel Cousteau keynote speech from last year's Kaua'i Family Ocean Fair have been put on videotape and have begun broadcasting on the Kaua'i public access channel 12. The tapes are also available for borrowing from the Kauai Sanctuary Office and Kilauea Point National Wildlife Refuge. The 2002 lectures were: "All About Atlantic Humpback Whales" by David Mattila; "Entangled Whales: What Do We Know? What Do We Do?" by David Mattila; "The Last Buffalo Hunt" by Dr. Steve Gittings; "Coral Reef Ecosystems of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands" by Andy Collins. Production of these tapes was funded by the Sanctuary and Kilauea Point Natural History Association.

Tapes for the 2001 lectures are also available: "Humpback Whale Mom and Calves" by Rachel Cartwright; "Hawaiian Undersea Volcano Loihi" by Brian Midson; "Humpback Whale Singers" by Dr. James Darling; and "Hawaiian Monk Seals" by John Henderson.

TRAINING

Two-Day Humpback Whale and Marine Mammal Training. On January 31 and February 1, thirty-five people undertook the training session sponsored by the Sanctuary and conducted by humpback whale researcher and naturalist Steve Zeff. The training session was designed for educators, sanctuary volunteers and interpreters at Kilauea Point National Wildlife Refuge. It was attended by all of those as well as commercial tour captains, State DLNR personnel who have trained in whale disentanglement and SAC members. Through the assistance of DLNR's Vaughan Tyndzik, Division of Boating and Ocean Recreation Kaua'i Administrator, Holoholo Charters provided a catamaran for a two-hour on-water training component led by Steve.



Many of the trainees have since become more active in the Sanctuary program, as evidenced in the assistance they have provided in the School-Based Ocean Counts and special events. Some of the interpreters from Kilauea Point are preparing to share their expanded knowledge with other Refuge volunteers. Jean has received positive feedback of improved content and interpretive quality by Refuge volunteers.

Space limitations of the Kaua'i office influenced the decision to limit the number of people who could attend this training. If the training was open to the general public, Jean and I expect that the interest would have been high and would have exceeded 70. No one else on Kaua'i is providing this kind of training. The use of other venues on Kaua'i is costly and often does not meet our requirements.

First Responder, Whale Disentanglement Training. On February 3, David Mattila, Ed Lyman and David Nichols conducted a 6-hour training session in the Kauai Sanctuary Office. Training included field exercises at a nearby park. The training was attended by the DLNR-DOBOR personnel headed by Vaughan Tyndzik, SAC members Don Thornburg and myself, and Jean.



Other Training. Jean participated in the 2-day sanctuary volunteer training conducted on Maui by Steve Zeff on January 27 and 28. Jean also received training on administrative matters relating to timesheets, travel and purchase card on January 29.

VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers have been putting in about 5 volunteer days per week, averaging eight hours per day. They are working on Ocean Count, Ocean Fair, school-based projects, sanctuary library and other projects.

On February 8, 90 volunteers with Kilauea Point National Wildlife Refuge received a letter of appreciation from Jean and reference materials in recognition of their contributions to whale interpretation and support of the Sanctuary's mission.

Attachment #8

HAWAII COUNTY REPORT January-February, 2003

Community Events-

January

Jan. 5: Ocean Count Training at NELHA

Jan. 15: West Hawaii Fisheries Council (WHFC) meeting. Topic: Spear fishing with SCUBA. Council members winnowed from eight options to three. They took these three options to their constituents to poll for consensus for next month.

Jan 21: ReefTalk in Kamuela/Waimea. Dr. Adam Pack "packed" the house at Waimea with an audience of 67 people. It is obvious that marine mammals are of great interest to Big Islanders.

Jan.25: Ocean Count

February

Feb 2: ReefTeach training at Kahalu'u Beach Park. ReefTeachers help snorkelers identify and avoid injuring live coral colonies in Kahalu'u Bay.

Feb. 6: Sanctuary Managers met at Ohana Keauhou Beach Hotel in Kona. Presentations from DAR's Dr. Bill Walsh and Linda Flanders described Walsh's fisheries research and Flanders' survey of current management practices in Hawaii. UH Sea Grant's Sara Peck described the

ongoing community-based management program taking place in West Hawaii with the West Hawaii Fisheries Council.

Feb.8 : ReefWatcher training. Twelve new potential ReefWatchers and Eight current ReefWatchers attended. ReefWatcher sites number 12 established now, with potentially 7-10 more sites to come on line after the winter swells calm.

Feb. 28: ReefTalk by Dr. Jan Ostman-Lind, who once again packed the house in Kona with 89 people (a larger room).

Feb. 20: WHFC Meeting. Continued discussion on spear fishing with SCUBA. Spear fishers attended, expressing their points of view.

Feb. 22: Ocean Count

Feb. 27-29: Dr. Chuck Greene, Cornell University, in collaboration with The Kohala Center, provided a forum for scientists and managers re a proposed bioacoustics oceanographic monitoring array along the West Hawaii coastline.

March

March 6: Dr. Neil Sims, Black Pearls Inc. Kona Blue Watergave Kona Palisades Community Association informational presentation about the proposed open ocean cage culture research project planned for a site north of Keahole Pt.

March 9, 2003 live humpback whale songs from research site on the Kohala Coast on Sunday, March 9th from 11 am to 2 pm. Offered by the consortium.

Submitted by Sara Peck, UH Sea Grant Extension Service, West Hawaii

Attachment #9

MAUI COUNTY REPORT February 27, 2003

Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council
March 13, 2003, Meeting

Richard McCarty
Maui County Representative

This report is a compilation of the weekly site reports concerning activities at the Maui Sanctuary Office.

Site Report for Maui
Date 1/27/03-2/1/03

Accomplishments/Awards-

January 27-31- David Mattila attended the Research Coordinators Meeting in Santa Cruz, California.

January 31- In the continuing saga of the gathering of the Sanctuary rescue equipment, the outboard arrived today.

January 31- Ed Lyman served as the Captain aboard the Sanctuary boat, assisting the Division of Aquatic Resources with their underwater Reef Survey for Ahihi Reserve.

Community Events-

January 27, 28- The Maui Education Center was packed full of Sanctuary staff (Maui, Oahu, Kaua'i) and volunteers hearing the latest facts, figures, and intrigues of the North Pacific Humpback Whale. Over 35 Sanctuary volunteers participated in this two-day training that was presented by Steven Zeff, Communications Director and Research Associate with the Center for Whale Studies. This is the second year that Steven has offered this training to Sanctuary staff and volunteers. The second day of training involved an on the water component of actual whale behavior interpretation while aboard the Maka Kai. This whale watch was available to volunteers who completed the two-day workshop.

January 28- Claire Cappelle, Maui County Liaison hosted a 45 Ton Talk on the lanai of the Sanctuary Building since the Education Center was being utilized for the volunteer training. Have whale props, will travel.

Media Coverage

January 26- The Maui News featured an article describing the activities and goals of the Ocean Count that took place on Saturday January 5, 2003.

Site Report for Maui
February 2/10-2/16/03

Accomplishments/Awards-

Sunday, Feb.9-David Mattila, Science and Rescue Coordinator and Ed Lyman, Science and Research Specialist are continuing to do scar analysis of tail stocks and now that the Sanctuary has a pole cam David and Ed are able to view underwater full body images for analysis. On Sunday, they did underwater photo identification and tested the pole cam.

Monday, Feb. 10- Sanctuary staff and Dan Basta, Chief of the National Marine Sanctuary Program took the ManaCat out for a test drive.

Monday, Feb. 10- David Mattila, Science and Rescue Coordinator and Ed Lyman, Science and Research Specialist responded to a report of a grounded humpback whale. It turned out to be a female humpback logging at the surface.

Tuesday, Feb. 11- David Mattila and Ed Lyman held a Disentanglement Training for Sanctuary Staff and Maui Division of Aquatic Research representatives. This training was to educate the attendees to be qualified as first responders in case of an entanglement.

Wednesday, Feb. 12- David Mattila, Science and Rescue Coordinator and Ed Lyman, Science and Research Specialist, responded to a report of an entangled monk seal. None were found.

Thursday, Feb. 12- For the second time this week David Mattila, Science and Rescue Coordinator and Ed Lyman, Science and Research Specialist did research on photo identification and full body analysis using the pole cam.

Dan Basta, Chief of the National Marine Sanctuary Program spent time with the Maui Sanctuary staff this week.

Community Events-

Wednesday, Feb. 12-Joylynn Oliveira, Hawaiian Cultural Educator held this month's Hawaiian Cultural Workshop "at the movies". Volunteers and staff gathered round for a viewing of Hawai'i. This classic movie depicts life in Hawai'i in the 1820's as the first missionaries arrived in the busling whaling town of Lahaina. A brief discussion was held to share thoughts, views, and reactions of the portrayal of missionaries and native Hawaiians.

Wednesday, Feb.12- Joylynn Oliveira, Hawaiian Cultural Educator led a training for the South Maui Turtle Stranding Network. Staff and volunteers were in attendance to learn rescue procedures and proper use of needed equipment.

Saturday, Feb.15-Sanctuary staff and volunteers will attend Pacific Whale Foundation's Whale Day festival and will set up a booth and distribute Sanctuary education materials.

Media Coverage-

The Maui Visitor? information booklet highlighted the lecture by Steve Zeff that was held on Tuesday February 11, 2003. I am researching to see if this is the name of the actual publication, as it was one we had never seen before.

Sunday, Feb 9- The Maui News listed the 45 Ton Talk as well as the Steve Zeff lecture which were both held on Tuesday, Feb. 11.

Site Report for Maui
Date 2/17-2/23

Accomplishments/Awards-

Tuesday, Feb. 18- Adam Pack was the guest speaker for the lecture entitled "Choosiness in Humpback Whales: Habitats and Escorting Strategies. Dr. Pack presented the latest findings in female habitat preferences along with male escort preferences regarding female humpback whales and mate selection.

Tuesday, Feb. 18 – Joylynn Oliveira and Claire Cappelle participated in research training aboard Sanctuary vessel to collect scientific data on whales and learn how to use tools during entanglement situations

Research- David Mattila, Science and Rescue Coordinator and Ed Lyman, Science and Research Specialist continued to do humpback whale research and data collection all this week.

Community Events-

Saturday, Feb.22- Cindy Hylkema and Rhonda Van Wingerden participated in the Sanctuary Ocean Count on the island of Kaho'olawe. This count was organized by Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission staff. Cindy and Rhonda also assisted with a land-based survey at a platform at Honokanai'a Bay. There they collected data on sightings of marine life and seabirds. This survey was done at the same time that an aerial survey was taking place by Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission staff.

Media Coverage-

Sunday, Feb. 16- The Maui News highlighted the lecture given by Adam Pack on Tuesday, February 18, 2003. The article was entitled, "Humpback Hookups Topic of Free Lecture".

CalendarMaui.com featured the free lecture given by Steve Zeff on February 11, 2003 entitled, "Inside the Antarctic Convergence:Whales, Whaling, Seabirds and Exploration."

Friday, Feb. 21 The Maui News listed the winners of the 4th Annual Whale Discovery 2003 project that the Maui site is partnering on with Windjammer Cruises, Maui.

Attachment # 10

REPORT TO THE SAC
Naturalist Training and Certification Working Group
Prepared By Teresa Leicher
March 13, 2003

NATIONAL PROGRAM

No action has been taken since the last SAC meeting by the national program group.

IN HAWAII

The Maui and Kauai staffs have undertaken several initiatives that have expanded the role of the Sanctuary in the area of naturalist training:

Sanctuary participation in on-going naturalist programs. In November 2002, Maui County Liaison Claire Cappellet presented Sanctuary information as part of the naturalist course conducted by the Pacific Whale Foundation. Claire made an offer to participate in the naturalist course conducted at Maui Community College.

Maui Sanctuary volunteer and staff training. For the second year, the Maui office hosted a 2-day training session on humpback whales, marine mammals, and interpretive technique. This year's training was held on January 27 and 28 in the Sanctuary's education center and was conducted by humpback whale researcher and naturalist Steve Zeff. Fifty volunteers and staff from Maui and other islands participated. The training included an on-water component.

Kauai 2-day training. For the first time on Kauai, the Sanctuary sponsored a Two-Day Humpback Whale and Marine Mammal Training. The training was conducted by Steve Zeff and included a 2-hour on-water training component. The training session, while similar in content to the Maui volunteer and staff training mentioned above, was marketed to educators, sanctuary volunteers and interpreters at Kilauea Point National Wildlife Refuge. The thirty-five people who attended included: public and private school teachers, sanctuary volunteers, Kilauea Point NWR volunteer interpreters, commercial tour boat captains and Sanctuary staff. Strong interest in attending the training was expressed by media personnel (reporters) and others on the Kauai mailing list. The availability of this training was not advertised to the general public. The limit on participants was dictated by the size of the room available for the training and does not reflect the level of community interest or need.

Kauai 3-hour training. Conversations with several members of the Kauai commercial tour boat industry have indicated that one-evening/late afternoon session may be appealing. Sanctuary staff is working on the logistics of hosting a possible 3-hour session for commercial tour boat crews and captains to be conducted by David Mattila. Topics: current research findings and current and anticipated humpback whale research projects. Location of the training/lecture will likely be on the Westside where most of the commercial operations are located.

Within the next three months, Sanctuary staff will be discussing next year's needs for budget planning purposes.